

Friends Honor Ann Moon With Tree Planting

[TAMMI SLATER](#)

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One thing Ann Moon has never run short of is friends. In times of struggle, she has learned that you can never have enough of them. Described as thoughtful, good company, fun, trustworthy, and reliable, Moon is the kind of friend everyone wants in their circle.

Twenty of these friends gathered at Rocky Run Bar & Grill on November 17 to honor their friend as a strong fighter in her ten-year battle with breast cancer. The group gathered to surprise her with the news that they would be honoring her through the Howard County Cherry Blossom Project Planting at Centennial Park on November 22.

"I was flabbergasted. I found out just five days ago; it was a surprise. I'm blessed with a lot of friends," said Moon smiling.

The project, sponsored by Howard County Tourism, is a county-wide planting of Kwanzan cherry trees. The project was announced by County Executive James Robey at Howard County Tourism's 23rd annual meeting on September 23.

"It is a project that is designed to not only enhance the county's existing attractions but also provide a foundation upon which future tourism opportunities can be built. It is a vision out of which a new, unique, county-wide spring celebration may take shape – one that may ultimately become a signature event for Howard County and maybe even the State," said Robey.

Additionally, the project is designed to give back to the community by donating a portion of the funds to a Howard County beneficiary. The first twenty trees were purchased by the Founding Father's for \$1,000 each, with 50 percent of the proceeds going to The Howard Hospital Foundation, directed specifically to the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource and Image Center.

For 66-year-old Moon, the event was bittersweet.



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A TREE GROWS IN
ELLICOTT CITY: Friends of Ann Moon honored her bravery and determination in her battle against breast cancer by planting a tree for her in Centennial Park, part of the County's Cherry Tree Project.

“Having the support and encouragement from friends means more than you know, I’m really blessed,” said Moon.

Regina Ford, Marketing Director at Turf Valley Hotel and Conference Center, was the force behind organizing Moon’s support group.

“I happened to have the honor of being on the committee and I thought how appropriate this would be for my good friend, Ann. She and many of her friends have walked this lake for years and she’s a user of the Claudia Mayer Center. I’ve known her for 25 years, and her personality and her zest for life haven’t changed. She’s a tremendous person and we have great respect for her and her struggle, so this is in her honor,” said Ford.

Joan McCaw has known Ann since first grade when their friendship first began. A former high school teacher, Ann even taught McCaw’s children driver’s ed at Atholton High School.

“There were a lot of phone calls made. She has a lot of friends, stays in touch with them, and has made a lot of new friends in Howard County,” said McCaw.

Theresa Farson has known Ann for over 20 years. The two once worked side by side as staff members at Wilde Lake High School.

“She’s a fantastic person. I’ve never heard anyone say anything negative about her. She remains so positive even though she’s fighting cancer. We all wanted to do something to honor her, and this is a wonderful way to honor Ann Moon,” said Farson.

Ann’s daughter, Karen, equally overwhelmed and pleased with the project, remains in awe of the support behind her mother’s fight with cancer.

“I think she has the best group of friends anyone could ask for and lots of them. This was perfect for her because she does spend a lot of time at the lake, so it’s wonderful for her and her family,” said Karen.

Debbie Daskaloff, Executive Director of the Howard Hospital Foundation, believes the project will be a great success and will continue in years to come.

“I think planting trees as a tribute to someone is very meaningful because people get to watch it grow, and it will always be here in their honor. Plus it’s a wonderful way to beautify the community and serve the Claudia Mayer Cancer Center,” said Daskaloff.